

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 EUR-25

PM-07 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 081234Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6388

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJ: AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION ELECTIONS

REF: BA 2707

SUMMARY: FORTHCOMING AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION ELECTIONS IN CORDOBA PIT SLATES FROM THREE OPPOSING TENDENCIES IN FIRST REAL TEST OF STRENGTH THOSE SECTORS SINCE ADVENT PERONIST REGIME. TROSKYITE, "CLASISTA" RENE SALAMANCA IS SLIGHT FAVORIT TO BE RE-ELECTED, BUT COALITION LEFTIST PERONIST-RADICAL PARTY SLATE COULD PROVIDE SEROUS COMPETITION. IN ANTICIPATED NON-FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS, ORTHODOX PERONIST SLATE IS EXPECTED TO BE DISTANT THIRD.

1. AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION (SMATA) ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD MAY 8-10 WITH ACTING SECGEN JOSE RODRIGUEZ, WHO REPLACED ASSASSINATED SECGEN KLOOSTERMAN, HEADING UNOPPOSED NATIONAL LEVEL SLATE. PROPOSED OPPOSITIONIST SLATE WAS REJECTED BY ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON GROUND "DEFICIENCIES IN ELECTORAL PETITION".

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2. ELECTIONS IN CORDOBA SMATA LOCAL, HOWEVER PRESENT FIRST

CLEAR CUT UNION ELECTORAL CONTEST PITTING THREE MAJOR LABOR TENDENCIES. OUTCOME IS OF MAJOR IMPTRTANT AS SMATA IS SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT UNION IN CORDOBA AND ACTING JOINTLY WITH AGUSTIN TOSCO'S LIGHT & POWER UNION, SETS TONE OF CORDOBA LABOR RELATIONS. IN MAY DAY ADDRESS, TOSCO CALLED FOR CITY WIDE WORK STOPPAGE MAY 29 TO COMMEMORATE 1969 CORDOBAZO WHEN MANY STRIKING WORKERS WERE KILLED IN CLASHES WITH POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES. DEVELOPMENTS ON MAY 29 WILL OBVIOUSLY BE CONDITIONED BY RESULTS SMATA ELECTIONS.

3. HEADING TROTSKYITE CLASISTA SLATE SEEKING RE ELECTION, 31 YEAR OLD RENE SALAMANCA IS SUPPORTED BY THE CLASISTAS (SUPPORTERS OF COMMUNIST THREORY OF CLASS STRUGGLE), LEFTIST YOUNG PERONIST WORKERS (JTP), AND WORKING LEVEL PERONIST ORGANIZATION (PERONISMO DE BASE NACIONAL). SEEKING TO REPLACE SALAMANCA IS AN ORTHODOX PERONIST SLATE HEADED BY 30 YEAR OLD ERMINIO GIBILARO, WHO IS SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICIAL PERONOST CGT, 62 ORGANIZATIONS AND JUSTICIALIST PARTY. ANOTHER SLATE, HEADED BY 31 YEAR OLD JORGE OLMOS, REPRESENTS THE LEFTIST LEGALIST PERONIST GROUPING HEADED BY EX VICE GOVERNOR ATILIO LOPEZ. OLMOS' SLATE IS SUPPORTED BY THE LEGALIST PERONISTS, LEFTIST PERONIST YOUTH AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE RADICAL PARTY (UCR) LABOR MOVEMENT. FIVE OF THE TWENTY THREE CANDIDATES ON THE LEGALIST LIST ARE UCR MEMBERS. BOTH CLASISTAS AND LEGALIST RADICAL SLATES ARE RUNNING ON ANTI BUREAUCRATIC, ANTI PATRONAL AND ANTI IMPERIALIST PLATFORMS. THE ORTHODOX PERONIST PLATFORM IS PRO PERON AND PRO PERONIS.

4. SALAMANCA HAS PREDICTED THAT HE WILL WIN DESPITE NATIONAL UNION "HARASSMENT", AND LOCAL UNION AND PATRONAL "GANGSTER TACTICS" TO FRUSTRATE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTIONS. SALAMANCA WAS ARRESTED MAY 6 FOR BEING IN CAR WHICH HAD NO LICENSE PLATES, SO HIS CHARGES OF HARASSMENT ARE PROBABLY BASED ON FACT. HOWEVER LEGALIST RADICAL COALITION COULD PROVIDE SEROUS COMPETITION IF NON FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS ARE HELD. UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS THE ORTHODOX SLATE WOULD PROBABLY COME IN A POOR THIRD. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SMATA ELECTIONS, THERE IS NO GURANTEE THAT THEY WILL INDEED BE CARRIED OUT IN A DEMOCRATIC FASHION. ALSO RUMOURS, WITH POSSIBLY SOME SUBSTANCE IN FACT, INDICATE THAT THE NAIONAL UNION MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALLY INTERVENE THE UNION SHOULD SALAMANCA BE ELCTED. THEREFORE, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME, EXCEPT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE ORTHODOX PERONIST SLATE SHOULD WIN IN A NON-FRAUDULENT ELECTION, SMATA CORDOBA WILL CONTINUE TO BE A TROUBLESOME ELEMENTIN BOTH CORDOBA AND NATIONAL TRADE UNION POLITICS.

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